

SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE SPIRIT OF '76

Already in South Carolina many exciting Bicentennial plans and projects are underway.

Charleston, South Carolina, cited in Time magazine as "leading the Nation" in the Bicentennial observance, has an extensive heritage-oriented Bicentennial program expected to involve one of every eleven Charlestonians by 1976.

While most cities have undergone extensive changes since the 1700's, in Charleston it is possible to literally "walk in the footsteps of the patriots of 1776." Through careful preservation and restoration, many homes and churches in Charleston provide a source of colonial culture not widely available in the nation today. During the Bicentennial Era,



many special events and tours will open this treasure chest of history to visitors.

The Religious Liberty Committee of the Charleston County Bicentennial Committee is sponsoring a special tour of churches in cooperation with Charles Towne Tours of Charleston. This tape cassette guided walking tour covers thirteen early churches and synagogues. Biographical sketches, anecdotal information and a touch of architecture combine to give the history and development of these churches and their activities.

Through the Charleston County Bicentennial Committee's Founders' Festivals, the contributions of various ethnic groups who were instrumental in the founding and growth of the city will be spotlighted. Month-long celebrations highlight the music, dances, foods, history and traditions of German, Jewish, Black, Scottish and other elements. The Irish Heritage Festival will take place during March 15-April 14, while May 1-30 will focus on Greek Heritage.

In February of 1975, the south wing of Henry Middleton's Plantation House in Charleston, will be opened to the public as a house museum. As part of Middleton Place, a National Historic Landmark, the Middleton Place House will exhibit furniture, silver, china, art works and books belonging to Henry and Arthur Middleton and their descendants.

On June 22, the 233rd birthday of Arthur Middleton, one of South Carolina's four signers of the Declaration of Independence, will be celebrated at Middleton Place. Visitors can enjoy colonial lawn games, fife and drum music, a special Bicentennial speaker's program, an art show and a torch light tour through the famed gardens of Middleton Place.

In April of 1975, the USS Aircraft Carrier Yorktown will arrive in Charleston Harbor as the first addition to Patriots Point, a Naval and Maritime Museum being developed in honor of the Nation's 200th birthday. The 500-acre park will house decommissioned ships, models and displays of vessels and weapons from the days of the American Revolution to the 20th century, a theater section for showing movies of naval historical events and a library. The library will be a collection of documents, papers, artifacts and other written materials concerning the history of the Navy and Merchant Marine. Also planned in a second phase of development is an oceanarium and amphitheater to be used for recreational and educational purposes. Although Patriots Point will be open to visitors by the Bicentennial year, 1976, full development of the project will be a continuing effort.

For more information on Charleston's Bicentennial plans, contact: The Charleston County Bicentennial Committee, Box 1776, Charleston, S. C. 29402.



Students Enjoy A Look into the Past

Approximately 40,000 South Carolina youngsters spent last summer meeting heroes and heroines of the American Revolution through the American Patriot Reading Club, a statewide vacation reading program. A two-year project of the State Library and South Carolina Bicentennial Commission, the program encourages young people to learn more about the history of their state and nation.

The American Patriot Reading Club, conceived by State Librarian, Estellene P. Walker, is sponsored by public, institutional and military libraries, history societies and other state and county agencies. Participants reading a specified number of selected books are awarded a colorful Certificate of Achievement.

Grants totaling more than \$100,000 were distributed by the State Library to enable participating public libraries to purchase books and other materials.

By the end of the summer of 1975, it is anticipated that more than 80,000 people will have joined the program.

The Bicentennial commemoration will have a special meaning for those young patriots who have journeyed into the state's history through the American Patriot Reading Club.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Looking for us? The offices of the South Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Commission are located at 1205 Pendleton Street in Columbia, South Carolina. We are in the Edgar A. Brown Building in Room 101. The telephone number is 803-758-7855, and our mailing address is P. O. Box 1976, Columbia, S. C. 29202. We welcome your comments and suggestions and will be happy to provide you with further information on any of the Bicentennial projects and programs covered here.

S. C. STATE LIBRARY



BICENTENNIAL PLANS AND PROJECTS

A special Bicentennial course on the history of Georgetown County was taught at the Georgetown County Education Center's fall semester by Dennis T. Lawson, Director of the Rice Museum. In addition, Mr. Lawson has written the first guidebook to Georgetown County. Titled, "A Guide to Historic Georgetown County, South Carolina," this 64-page booklet is available from the Rice Museum for \$3.00 (includes postage and handling). The Rice Museum also plans a special ceremony on May 18, commemorating the approaching Bicentennial and the fifth anniversary of the Rice Museum. ☆ ☆ ☆ Bicentennial plans in Columbia feature the establishment of a "Bicentennial Riverfront Park" between the Blossom and Gervais St. bridges. Picnic facilities and hiking trails will make the area an excellent recreational park for citizens of Columbia. Also planned are a \$10,000 Bicentennial contribution to the restoration of Simons Cottage, the publication of a book on Richland County's history, and the establishment of a Community Trust Fund to be used in implementing needed city improvements. ☆ ☆ ☆ In honor of the Bicentennial, the McCormick County Historical Commission is working with the Abbeville District Historical Society in restoring the Guillebeau Home, which is the last remaining house occupied by an original French Huguenot of the 1764 New Bordeaux Settlement. ☆ ☆ ☆ Citizens of Union, South Carolina, are working on a Bicentennial program that includes the re-enactment of the battle of Musgrove's Mill, a tour of historic homes in Union County, and the erection of historical markers at Blackstock, Musgrove's Mill and Brandon's Camp. ☆ ☆ ☆ Jasper County plans include the restoration of the burial site of Thomas Heyward, Jr., planting a memorial garden on the grounds of the Jasper County Office building, and preparation of a time capsule to be opened in 2076. ☆ ☆ ☆ In Salley, South Carolina, a patriotic celebration is planned for May 4 commemorating the battle of John's Town. ☆ ☆ ☆ June will bring Kershaw County's Bicentennial Arts and Crafts Festival. Historic Camden will be the scene of an arts and crafts show, bazaar booths, a country store and special tours of the Historic Camden site. ☆ ☆ ☆ Bicentennial plans in Greenville call for a new Pedestrian Mall with amphitheater and exhibit area in the downtown area. The city's Main Street will welcome Bicentennial visitors through a colorful display of the flags of the 50 states. Also planned is the restoration of the Lewis House and a Comprehensive Senior Citizen Center for the elderly. ☆ ☆ ☆

Students Explore Upcountry Heritage

Could you make a basket from a tree? Dye cloth from barks and roots that you found in the woods? Make soap from wood ashes and fat?

Students in South Carolina's historic Pendleton area are learning these things and much more through a Bicentennial program, the Foot-hills Heritage Series.

Sponsored by the State Bicentennial Commission, the South Carolina Arts Commission and the Pendleton District Historical and Recreational Commission, the program teaches pioneer music, crafts and culture to 200 selected ninth grade students from Anderson, Oconee and Pickens county schools.

Students gathering at weekend workshops at Clemson University journey into a past where candles, caned chairs and pottery are not simply things purchased at a hardware store, but are items hand-crafted from natural materials. Students are exposed to a wide variety of subjects, from bagpipes to quilting to wood carving, and then choose one or two subjects for more intensive study. Learning from teachers who are actual craftsmen in the area, the students develop an awareness and appreciation of their heritage. A special colonial religious service and programs on the Up-country's history and dialect serve to heighten this awareness.

This year's series has been expanded to include a weekend workshop for adults and returning 1974 students.

Other Bicentennial plans in the Pendleton District include the restoration of Hagood Mill, a corn mill built in 1825, the publication of a quarterly Bicentennial newsletter, and an outdoor drama production on the life of General Andrew Pickens. Through the Century Farms program, farm families in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties whose property has been in the same family ownership for 100 years or more will be awarded special certificates and yard plaques.

BICENTENNIAL BRINGS NEW HORIZONS TO FAIRFIELD

An exciting new concept in rural revitalization is taking shape in historic Fairfield County as part of South Carolina's Bicentennial commemoration.

Labeled New Horizons, the project will serve to stimulate economic growth in the county through housing, industrial, educational and recreational development.

New Horizons is located four miles east of Winnsboro, a city recently designated a national Bicentennial Community on the basis of a varied Bicentennial program that includes New Horizons.

Through the joint cooperation of the State Development Board, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Housing Authority and Highway Department, the New Horizons Development Authority was created to administer the project.

Plans call for construction of I-77 on an earth-fill dam which will impound Little Wateree Creek and create a 1,000-acre lake. A new 1,200-acre state park, with full recreational camping and picnicking facilities will be included, along with an environmental learning center and housing and industrial research complexes.

The proposed environmental learning center will provide laboratories, conference rooms, technical libraries and related facilities for researchers, students and teachers. It will also serve as a center for teacher training with an emphasis on environmental education.

A portion of the project will be devoted to experimental housing and industrial activities. The latest developments in building construction, pollution control and energy conservation will be demonstrated, with the private sector deeply involved.

New Horizons is visualized as complementing the town of Winnsboro and stimulating the economy of the area. It is also hoped that New Horizons will reverse the population trend evident in a county where outmigration has been the pattern for half a century. Through New Horizons, the citizens of Fairfield County will face America's third century with a high degree of hope and optimism.

CRAPE MYRTLE '76

1,976 Crape Myrtle trees planted on Interstate-26 will be blooming in 1976 to welcome Bicentennial visitors to the state. A project of South Carolina Garden Clubs, Crape Myrtle '76 was endorsed by the South Carolina Bicentennial Commission and the State Highway Department. The Highway Department is planting and maintaining the trees.

The Crape Myrtle tree was introduced to America by Andre Micheax

during the American Revolution, and was chosen because it was first planted in South Carolina and has a long blooming season.

We encourage interested persons to reprint any article appearing in Bicentennial News. Permission is not required.



TRAVEL COUNCIL PLANS ANNOUNCED

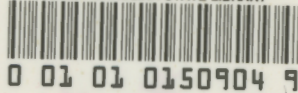
The South Carolina Travel Council has announced an extensive Bicentennial promotion that will attempt to reach every citizen of South Carolina.

A two-year promotion aimed at making thousands of South Carolinians "official Bicentennial Hosts" is planned, with 1975 called a "Know Yourself" year and 1976 a "Show Yourself" year. People will be encouraged to learn more about their area's heritage in 1975 and to share this knowledge with visitors in the Bicentennial year, 1976. Students visiting a combination of selected historic sites would qualify as Bicentennial hosts with appropriate membership cards, certificates, and badges.

The Travel Council is encouraging industries and businesses to use the Bicentennial theme in product development and marketing. In addition, hotel and motel chains will be encouraged to develop Bicentennial package plans, since the state's many historic sites are located in every section of South Carolina.

Bicentennial Calendars of Events will be distributed and information provided to news media concerning the Palmetto State's role in the American Revolution.

A division of the State Chamber of Commerce, the South Carolina Travel Council is made up of public and private tourism-related organizations throughout the state.



Achievement '76 Program Underway

Organizations throughout the state are pledging birthday gifts to America through Achievement '76, the South Carolina Bicentennial Commission's program urging businesses and organizations to join in rekindling the Spirit of '76. Already more than 100 groups have returned commitment certificates pledging "beneficial action as a legacy to those generations who will follow us and in tribute to the magnificent patriots of the American Revolution."

South Carolina's 1,400 4-H clubs have pledged 100 percent participation in the program. Commitment certificates returned from these clubs show that varied Bicentennial projects designed to elevate the quality of life in the state are being launched. A sampling shows that the Hollywood Senior Club has pledged to work with Hollywood's Cancer Fund, Heart Fund and March of Dimes drives. . . In Dillon, the 4-H Leadership Club plans a Dillon County Clean-Up Campaign. . . A bicycle safety clinic will be conducted by the Jr. Achievers II Club in Orangeburg. . . High school students in the Lewisville Middle School Club will work with physically and mentally handicapped children as their contribution to the Bicentennial.

Businesses and organizations in many parts of the state have return-

BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

Fifth Annual Lancing Tournament, Aiken (March 15) — Lancers compete in full and colorful costume at Powderhouse Polo Field at 10 a.m. Contact: Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 892, Aiken 29801. Phone 648-0485.

Founders' Festival-Irish Heritage, Charleston (March 15-April 14), Founders' Festivals are a continuing series of month-long festivals centering on ethnic groups which were instrumental in the founding and growth of Charleston. Special exhibits in Gibbes Art Gallery and Charleston Museum, special ethnic foods offered in local restaurants and two or three major events to be scheduled at a later date. Contact: Mr. James B. Bagwell, Jr., 313 Pitt St., Charleston 29464. Phone: 723-7281.

Citadel Spirit of '76 Golf Tournament, March 16, 12:00, Oristo Golf and Racquet Club, Edisto Island, S. C. Entry fee is \$25.00 with proceeds going to the Spirit of '76 Scholarship Fund. For more information contact: Col. D. D.

Nicholson, Vice President of Development, The Citadel, Charleston, S. C. 29409.

Broad Street Jubilee, Charleston (April 2-3) — Historical tableaux representing important Charleston events set up along Broad Street. Visitors may go from tableau to tableau as they please. Begins at 8 p.m. Contact: John C. Wilson, 67 Meeting St., Charleston 29401. Phone: 723-8311.

Nineteenth Century Living History Exposition, April 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Robert Mills Historic House and Park, 1616 Blanding St., Columbia, S. C. No admission fee. Children and adults are encouraged to try churning butter, kneading bread, quilting and even making curds and whey. All phases of Southern life in the 1800's — more than 40 exhibits of domestic and trade skills, hand needlework, home crafts, recreation, music and dancing, will be authentically demonstrated and explained by Historic Columbia Foundation volunteers in period dress. Contact: Historic Columbia Foundation, 252-7742.

ed certificates outlining a wide range of Bicentennial projects. The Laurens County Advertiser will publish a series of sketches about Laurens and South Carolina during the American Revolution. . . St. John's Episcopal Church Cub Scouts (Pack 2) in Columbia plan to work for the preservation of the Congaree Swamp. They are now building bluebird houses as a Bicentennial beautification project. . . In Abbeville, the Abbeville Music Club is at work re-

searching the area's folk music. They hope to publish their findings in book form. . . The Charleston County Woman's Club Bicentennial plans include the planting of a spring crop of indigo!

These Achievement '76 projects are just a small sampling of the commitments already made by numerous South Carolina organizations. For details on how your business or organization can participate contact: Achievement '76, Box 1976, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.